



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** June 29, 2011

**District:** 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CALTRANS COMPLETES FIRST PHASE OF WIDENING ON HIGHWAY 46 EAST

**PASO ROBLES** – Caltrans has completed construction on the \$50 million first phase of a Highway 46 East widening project.

“Highway 46 is an important route, linking the Central Valley and the Central Coast. Widening it will improve safety and mobility for thousands of commuters and tourists,” said Acting Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

The first phase widened a five-mile section of Highway 46 East from two to four lanes between Airport Road and Geneseo Road in Paso Robles.

Construction has been underway since February on phase two, a \$72 million project that is expanding another five miles of Highway 46 East from two lanes to four lanes from Geneseo Road to Almond Drive near Paso Robles. It is being primarily funded (\$50 million) by Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved transportation bond, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2013. To date, the state has allocated nearly \$8 billion in Proposition 1B funds for transportation purposes statewide.

A third phase that will widen nine miles of the highway from two lanes to four lanes between Almond Drive and the Shandon Rest Area is expected to begin in 2014. Last week, the California Transportation Commission reserved \$47 million in funding for the project.

For traffic updates on other state highways in San Luis Obispo County, motorists can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit the District 5 website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/maint/road/upslo.htm>

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